

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15

ICA-20 IO-14 OC-06 CCO-00 /102 W

-----027422 231217Z /40

R 230956Z JUN 78

FM AMCONSUL MUNICH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0511

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

UNCLAS MUNICH 02978

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, SHUM, UR

SUBJECT: VETERANS OF 1953 VORKUTA STRIKE DEMONSTRATE
APPRECIATION FOR PRESIDENT CARTER'S HUMAN RIGHTS POLICY

1. THREE FORMER INMATES OF THE WELL-KNOWN COMPLEX OF SOVIET CONCENTRATION CAMPS AT VORKUTA VISITED CONGEN JUNE 21 TO PRESENT LETTER TO PRESIDENT CARTER EXPRESSING APPRECIATION FOR HIS COMMITMENT TO FURTHERANCE OF HUMAN RIGHTS AROUND THE WORLD. PRESENTATION WAS TIMED TO COMMEMORATE THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE JULY 1953 STRIKE BY INMATES OF 31 OF THE 60 FORCED LABOR CAMPS WHICH THEN BELONGED TOTHEVORKUTA COMPLEX.

2. JOHANN URWICH, AN ETHNIC GERMAN AND FORMER CITIZEN OF ROMANIA WHO WAS ONE OF THE FIVE LEADERS OF THE VORKUTA STRIKE COMMITTEE, PRESENTED THE LETTER ADDRESSED TO PRESIDENT CARTER. HE WAS ACCOMPANIED BY FELLOW STRIKE PARTICIPANTS FRIEDRICH CLOSS AND JULIUS STUERMER, ALSO ETHNIC GERMANS AND FORMER ROMANIAN CITIZENS.

3. THE LETTER TRANSMITS, AS AN ECNLOSURE, AN ENGLISH UNCLASSIFIED

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TRANSLATION OF THE MEMORANDUM WHICH THE STRIKE COMMITTEE OF VORKUTA CAMP NO. 2, COALPIT NO. 7 PRESENTED TO THEN DEPUTY MINISTER FOR INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF USSR, GENERAL MASLENIKOV, AND PROSECUTOR GENERAL OF USSR RUDENKO ON JULY 26, 1953. AN OIL PAINTING BY STUERMER ALSO ACCOMPANIES THE LETTER. THE PAINTING DEPICTS A SURLY, SADISTIC-LOOKING SOVIET OFFICER SITTING ON A BLOOD-RED

THRONE IN FRONT OF A BARBED WIRE FENCE. BEHIND THE FENCE A DEJECTED THRONG OF CAMP INMATES KNEELS BEFORE THE OFFICER.

4. IN PRESENTING THE LETTER AND PAINTING, URWICH EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT PRESIDENT CARTER WOULD MAINTAIN HIS STRONG COMMITMENT TO THE STRUGGLE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE FUTURE. IN ACCEPTING LETTER AND PAINTING, CONGEN POLOFF THANKED URWICH, ET AL FOR THEIR GESTURE OF APPRECIATION, AND PROMISED TO FORWARD LETTER AND MEMO TO WASHINGTON.

5. TO CONGEN'S KNOWLEDGE, ONLY PUBLICITY TO DATE HAS BEEN SHORT, FACTUAL ANNOUNCEMENT OF PRESENTATION ON BAVARIAN RADIO EVENING OF JUNE 21.

6. LETTER, MEMO AND PHOTO OF PAINTING BEING POUCHED TO EUR/SOV (DEPUTY DIRECTOR MCCALL) UNDER REGISTRY NO. 3945340. REQUEST INSTRUCTIONS CONCERNING DISPOSITION OF PAINTING.

7. CONGEN WOULD BE HAPPY TO FACILITATE DELIVERY OF REPLY OR OTHER ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF PRESENTATION ON BEHALF OF PRESIDENT. BETTS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: HUMAN RIGHTS, PUBLIC CORRESPONDENCE, VETERANS GROUPS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978MUNICH02978
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780262-0253
Format: TEL
From: MUNICH
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
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Litigation History:
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Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
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Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2227711
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: VETERANS OF 1953 VORKUTA STRIKE DEMONSTRATE APPRECIATION FOR PRESIDENT CARTER'S HUMAN RIGHTS POLICY
TAGS: PINT, SHUM, UR, (CARTER, JIMMY)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/497da182-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014